

● CHICAGO

Chicago

Building Permit Report

March 2026

Monthly analysis of permit volume, project types, community area activity,
and construction trends sourced from City of Chicago public records.

Total Permits

New Construction

Reported Value

Demolitions

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Permit Volume Overview

Chicago issued **2,608 building permits** this month. Express permits — which cover routine electrical, mechanical, and minor alteration work — led volume at **1,705 (65.4%)**. Renovation and alteration permits accounted for **446 (17.1%)**, while ground-up new construction came in at **132 permits (5.1%)**. Demolition activity totaled **48 permits (1.8%)** this period.

Permit Type	Count	Share
Express Permit Program	1,705	65.4%
Renovation / Alteration	446	17.1%
New Construction	132	5.1%
Signs	163	6.2%
Elevator Equipment	69	2.6%
Demolition	48	1.8%

Top Work Categories

Chicago's permit data includes detailed work type classifications that reveal where contractors and tradespeople are most active. The table below shows the six most common work categories issued this month.

Work Type	Count	Share
Electrical Work	497	19.1%
Masonry Work	163	6.2%
Administrative Change	142	5.4%
Monthly Maintenance Permit	117	4.5%
Nonstructural Interior Work	111	4.3%
Small-Scale Solar PV System	107	4.1%

Project Valuation

The combined reported cost of all permitted projects this month totaled **\$2029.75 million**, with an average project cost of **\$911,835**. Chicago's construction market spans a wide range — from high-value commercial renovations in the Loop and Near North Side to residential infill and rehab work across the city's neighborhoods. These figures represent contractor-declared valuations at time of permit issuance.

\$2029.75M

Total Reported Value

\$911,835

Avg. Project Cost

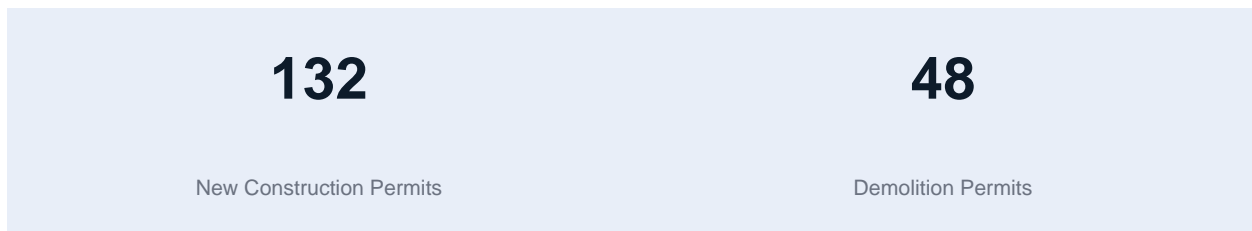
Community Area Activity

Chicago's 77 community areas offer a clear picture of where construction activity is concentrated. **Loop** led all areas this month with **204 permits** (7.8% of city total). The table below highlights the six most active community areas — a useful guide for contractors targeting specific markets.

Community Area	Permits	Share
Loop	204	7.8%
Near North Side	180	6.9%
Near West Side	107	4.1%
Lake View	105	4.0%
West Town	105	4.0%
Austin	91	3.5%

New Construction & Demolition

New construction and demolition permits signal where Chicago's built environment is changing most rapidly. This month, **132 new construction permits** were issued (5.1% of total), covering ground-up residential buildings, commercial developments, and mixed-use projects. Demolition activity — a leading indicator of upcoming new construction — accounted for **48 permits** (1.8%). Together these segments represent some of the highest-value work available to contractors in the market.



Get the Full List

This report summarizes the permit landscape for Chicago in March 2026. BCAR DATA's monthly lead lists give you the actual permit records — property address, permit type, project description, and reported cost — delivered straight to your inbox every month.

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